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(72) Inventor: **Wack, Michael A.**
Warsaw, Indiana 46580 (US)

(74) Representative:
Belcher, Simon James
Urquhart-Dykes & Lord
Tower House
Merrion Way
Leeds LS2 8PA (GB)

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(71) Applicant:
DePuy Orthopaedics Inc.
Warsaw, IN 46581 (US)

(54) **Impaction Instruments**

(57) An instrument and method are provided for compacting bone chips into a prepared metaphyseal portion of a femur, in order to conform the femur to receive a femoral implant stem. The instrument comprises a tamping stem (10) having a shape and size corresponding to the implant stem. The instrument also comprises a plurality of wedge-shaped enlarging portions (22,24) ranging from largest to smallest. The method involves selecting appropriate sized enlarging portions, attaching the largest wedges to the instrument, placing the instrument into the femur, supplying bone chips, impacting the instrument to compact bone chips, and repeating compaction with successively smaller wedges until the femur is conformed to receive the femoral implant stem. Once inserted into the femur, the distal end of the instrument remains in contact with the diaphysis throughout the bone chip compaction process. Thus, bone chips cannot enter the diaphysis, and the instrument remains in proper alignment throughout the process.

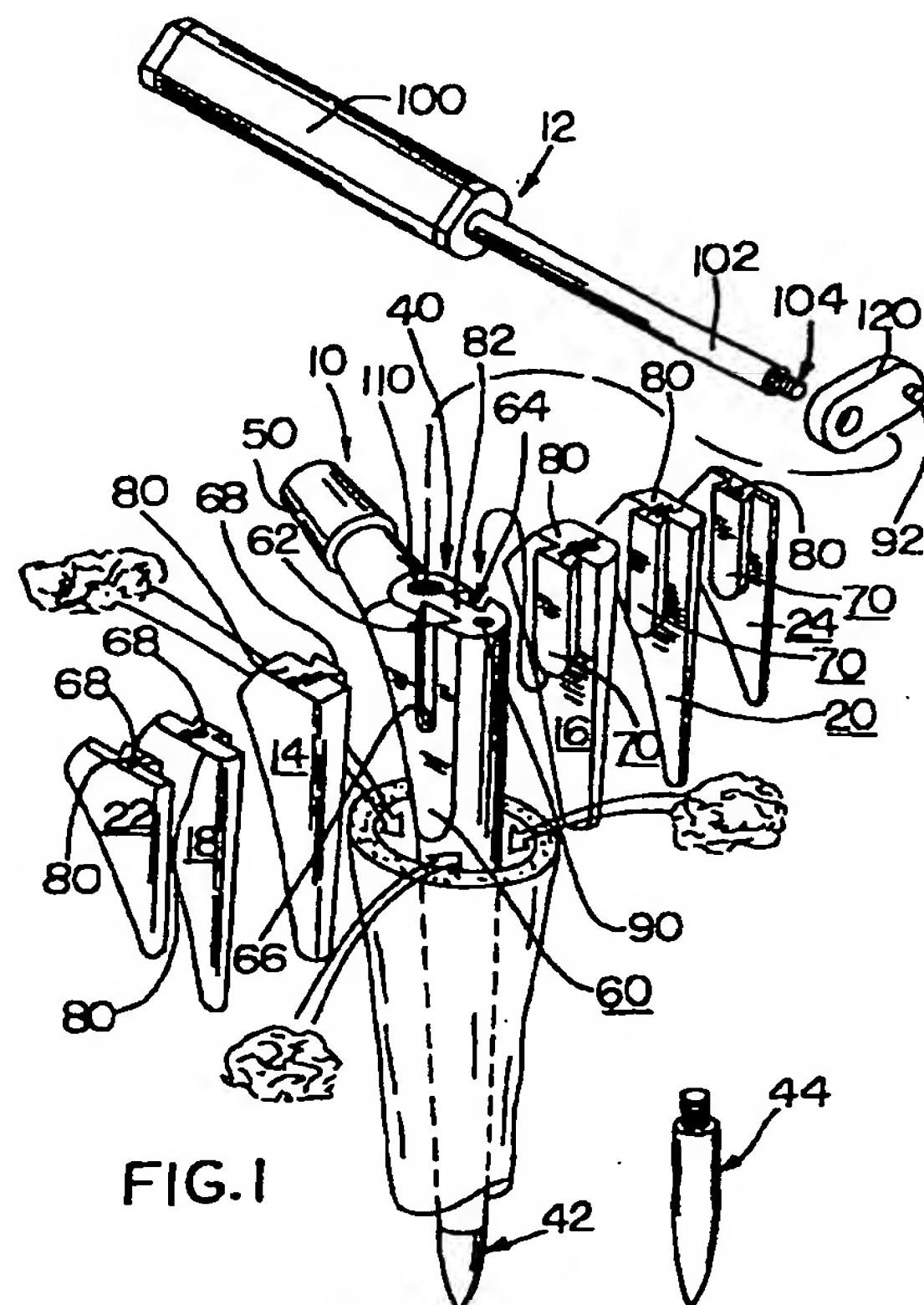


FIG.1

EP 0 992 225 A3



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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
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Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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EP 99 30 7608

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